CLAIMS

1. A seal for laparoscopic port comprising:

a base adapted to engage a cannula, the base including an axial aperture for a surgical instrument;

a multiplicity of jaws mounted on the base, the jaws being movable radially with respect to the aperture between an open position wherein a shaft of the surgical instrument may pass freely and a closed position wherein the jaws engage said shaft and provide a restraining force restraining radial movement of the shaft; and

an actuator rotatable to urge the jaws to move between said open position and said closed position;

wherein the actuator includes a click stop arrangement adapted to provide frictional engagement at a position intermediate the open and closed positions to hold the jaws at the intermediate position.

2. A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein the click stop arrangement comprises a discontinuity on the actuator arranged to engage a complementary discontinuity on the base.

3. A seal as claimed in claim 2 wherein the discontinuity comprises a protrusion or recess on the actuator arranged to engage a complementary detent or protrusion on the base.

4. A seal as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the click stop arrangement comprises a protrusion of detent on the jaw adapted to engage a complementary formation on the actuator.

5. A seal as claimed in claim 4 wherein the click stop arrangement comprises a pin extending from each jaw, the pin being received in a recess in a guide on the actuator.

6 A seal as claimed in any preceding claim wherein each jaw includes a follower movable along a respective guide on the actuator,

the guide having inner and outer ends corresponding to open and closed positions of the jaw,

the guide further having an intermediate discontinuity adapted to engage the follower preventing closure of the jaw by providing a closure resisting force greater than said restoring force.

7 A seal as claimed in claim 5 or 6 wherein the guide is an arcuate channel or slot in the actuator.

8. A seal as claimed in claim 7 wherein the channel or slot is parabolic or exponential in shape.

9. A seal as claimed in any of claims 5-8 wherein the recess is located on the radial inner surface of the guide.

10. A seal as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the jaws are biassed radially inwardly.

11. A seal as claimed in claim 10 wherein the jaws engage a lip of the resilient diaphragm and are biassed radially inwardly when the diaphragm is dilated